

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

Thank you for agreeing to extend the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) beyond the current expiration date of September 30 to December 7. The protections and resources enabled by VAWA improved the lives of countless women and families, and the security it provides remains critical today. While we appreciate the short-term extension, we ask that a bipartisan, long-term reauthorization of VAWA move forward as quickly as possible to provide greater certainty and to ensure these protections and resources do not lapse.

As you know, VAWA was developed and signed into law in 1994 in response to rising rates of violence, particularly sexual assaults and violence against women. The law improved federal, state, local, and tribal capabilities to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of violent crimes against women, and to provide support for victims and families. Progress has been made but significantly more work remains. An average of twenty people experience intimate partner physical violence every minute in the US. The authorizations and programs supported by VAWA are critical to providing safety, relief, and justice for millions of Americans. It must be reauthorized.

Congress reauthorized and amended VAWA three times by broad bipartisan majorities. Most recently in February 2013, Congress worked across the aisle to successfully pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act into law. We call for a similar bipartisan effort now in support of a long-term reauthorization of this important law and the millions of lives it protects.

Thank you for considering this request and for working on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress